

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 /039 W

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O R 131423Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8510

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T AMMAN 3679

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JO

SUBJECT CHANGE OF JORDAN GOVERNMENT

REF: AMMAN 3663 (NOTAL)

1. I SAW KING HUSSEIN SHORTLY AFTER NOON JULY 13. HE  
CONFIRMED NUMEROUS RUMORS FLOWING THROUGH AMMAN THAT HE  
WILL SHORTLY CHANGE GOVERNMENT.

2. RIFAI, WHO HAS WANTED TO RESIGN FOR SOME MONTHS,  
WILL LEAVE TO BECOME A PERSONAL POLITICAL ADVISOR TO,  
AND A "REPRESENTATIVE", OF, THE KING. THE NEW PRIME  
MINISTER WILL BE THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE ROYAL COURT,  
MUDHAR BADRAN.

3. KING TOLD ME HE DID NOT WANT TO AGREE TO RIFAI'S  
RESIGNATION, BUT HE FELT HE HAD TO FOR REASONS OF  
RIFAI'S HEALTH AND FAMILY, AND BECAUSE RIFAI HAD OBVIOUS

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POTENTIALITIES FOR FUTURE STINTS AS PRIME MINISTER, AND

KING WISHED TO LEAVE THAT POSSIBILITY OPEN. (SINCE THESE ARE EXACTLY THE ARGUMENTS RIFAI USED WITH ME SOME MONTHS AGO, I ASSUME RIFAI WAS EFFECTIVE IN PERSUADING THE KING TO LET HIM GO.)

4. THE KING CONFIRMED THAT MOST OF THE EXISTING CABINET WILL STAY. ONE SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT SENATOR ADNAN ABU ODEH, FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A ONE-YEAR FELLOWSHIP AT HARVARD, CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, WILL RESUME HIS OLD POSITION IN PLACE OF MINISTER OF INFORMATION INCUMBENT SALAH ABU ZAYD.

5. THE KING TOLD ME HE WAS MOVING JORDANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN SHERIF ABDUL HAMID SHARAF, IN AS HEAD OF THE ROYAL COURT. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GENERAL AMER KHAMMASH, AS MINISTER OF COURT. BADRAN AND KHAMMASH ARE ON FIRST READING FROM MILITARY SOURCES NOT LIKELY TO BE TERRIBLY POPULAR CHOICES WITH THE JORDANIAN ARMED FORCES WHO WOULD LIKE "REAL EAST BANKER" AS A PRIME MINISTER AND IN POSITIONS OF SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE AT THE ROYAL COURT.

6. THE KING WAS OBVIOUSLY RUSHED AND I DID NOT PRESS HIM FOR FURTHER DETAILS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MADE SHORTLY, ADDING "WE ARE WORKING ON THAT NOW".

7. AS I ENTERED THE KING'S OFFICE I MET A SMILING CROWN PRINCE HASSAN ON THE WAY OUT. HASSAN HAS NEVER GOTTEN ALONG WELL WITH RIFAI AND WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW HIS EXACT RELATIONSHIP TO BADRAN, WE ASSUME IT CAN ONLY BE AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE RIFAI/CROWN PRINCE RELATIONSHIP.

8. WE WILL SUBMIT MORE DETAILED BIO INFORMATION ON CABINET AS IT IS ANNOUNCED. BADRAN IS A RATHER TACITURN EAST BANKER WITH WEST BANK ANTICEDENTS. HIS ENGLISH IS PRECISE, BUT NOT NEARLY SO HIGHLY DEVELOPED OR AS ARTICULATE AS IS RIFAI'S. WE ASSUME  
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THAT RIFAI WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE, ALBEIT POSSIBLY IN THE BACKGROUND, IN FOREIGN AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE, WORKING PERSONALLY WITH THE KING.

9. THE KING SEEMED TRULY REMORESEFUL ABOUT LETTING RIFAI GO. HE TOLD ME THAT RIFAI HAD FACED MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS AND HAD WORKED HARDER THAN ANY PRIME

MINISTER JORDAN HAD EVER HAD. KING CLEARLY WILL CONTINUE TO RELY HEAVILY ON RIFAI FOR ADVICE IN WHAT HE TOLD ME WERE "KEY QUESTIONS".

10. EMBASSY WILL COMMENT FURTHER ON COMPOSITION OF NEW CABINET WHEN IT IS ANNOUNCED.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 76 AMMAN 3663  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CHANGE OF JORDAN GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, JO, (HUSSEIN I), (RIFAI, ZAYD), (BADRAN, MUDHAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006